

Cluster Leader Electronic Message
A monthly update for Writing Cluster Leaders
from the KDE Writing consultants
October 2006

Dear Cluster Leaders,

In this issue, please find information on

- ❑ **fall and spring cluster leader training**
- ❑ **links to materials**
- ❑ **upcoming conferences**
- ❑ **frequently-asked questions**

[Cluster Leader Training Materials](#) This page contains training materials from recent trainings. The fall cluster leader training materials will be archived here.

[Writing Resource Page](#)

This page contains a variety of resources cluster leaders may find helpful in working with staff on integrating writing into the curriculum. High school teachers may be interested [in analytical samples at this page](#). It will be updated continually as more samples are added. **Newer samples are at the bottom of the page.** Reflective writing samples will be archived as well. Check back periodically for updates.

[Navigating KDE](#)

Many teachers have indicated that they have had a difficult time finding KDE writing materials without a direct link. Use the path indicated below to easily access the writing resources at KDE.

Begin at the [KDE home page](#), then click on “Instructional Resources,” then “Literacy,” then “Writing.”

Upcoming Cluster Leader Trainings**

Fall Cluster Leader Trainings—October 25-November 15

Focus of the session: These trainings will focus on the new handbook, the new scoring rubric and anchor papers, and implications for classroom instruction. This training is not mandatory, but we highly recommend attendance as this will be the first formal rollout of new instructional and training materials. ****These meetings are for cluster leaders only, one representative per school. Smaller meetings will be held after fall training for district leadership interested in receiving the information from the cluster leader session.**

Spring Training

Spring Training dates have not been set yet; however, we do know that they will be **two-day trainings** to cover all of the new scoring material. If your school has only planned a three-hour training session for portfolio scoring training in the spring, we suggest that you begin to lay the groundwork with smaller and shorter “mini” training sessions or meetings as the year progresses to introduce teachers to the materials as time goes on.

It's likely that the training for your teachers in the spring will take longer than three hours, but it will be up to the schools as to how they choose to handle the extra material if they only have three hours planned.

Again, these spring training sessions will be for **cluster leaders only**.

Upcoming Conferences

Kentucky Council of Teachers of English—February 9-10, 2007

“Explore the Pathways to Literacy”

Marriott Griffin Gate, Lexington, KY

For more information, visit <http://www.kcte.org/>

Kentucky Teaching Learning Conference—March 8-9, 2007

“Rigor, Relevance and Relationships: The Three R's of a 21st Century Education”

Kentucky International Convention Center, Louisville, KY

For more information, visit <http://www.kentuckytlc.org/ktlc/default.htm>

Interesting Links

www.writeboard.com

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When will we have the handbook and the anchor papers?

A: You will receive the handbooks (both development and scoring with anchor papers) at the fall training. They will be online in November. DACs will also receive a copy within the next two weeks.

Q: When will we have the “cut scores” for portfolio scoring? How can we use them?

A: Cut scores will be released during fall training. Please understand that the score ranges were designed to score a **collection** of student writing for portfolio assessment, so they do not equate to a grading scale. You will know the cut

scores of the performance levels, but the performance labels will be calculated and reported by the testing contractor.

Poetry Contest



2007 Student Poetry Contest

KSPS Top Ten Reasons for Kids to Write Poetry

10. It's like rap
9. You can impress your friends
8. Its a challenge to play with new words
7. Poetry is a rhythm thing
6. Hey, it doesn't have to rhyme
5. Some of the most famous people in the world write poetry
4. It's a great way to express your feelings
3. It's the language of love
2. Poetry is cool
1. And the number one reason to write poetry? *You can win CASH.*

Each of the poetry categories listed below carries a cash prize for first, second and third place winners. Honorable mentions, presented at the discretion of the judge, will be recognized with a certificate. First, second and third place winning poems will be published in the student edition of *Pegasus*, the official publication of the Kentucky State Poetry Society and winning poets will be invited to read their winning poem at the KSPS convention held in October 2007.

As a special treat, winning poets will receive a t-shirt Transfer saying, "I'm a Winner, Kentucky State Student Contest 2007."

1. THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES -- Grades 1-2 only
Prizes: \$15/10/5 -- Any subject, any form.

2. ON BOOK TRAILS -- Grades 3-4 only
Prizes: \$25/15/10 -- Any subject, any form

3. ON GOLDEN GALLEONS -- Grades 5-6 only
Prizes: \$35/20/15 -- Any subject, any form

4. JUNIOR HIGH POETS -- Grades 7-8 only

Prizes: \$45/25/20 -- Any subject, any form

5. HIGH SCHOOL POETS -- Grades 9-12 only

Prize: \$55/30/25 -- Any subject, any form

KSPS 2007 STUDENT CONTEST RULES

1. All poems submitted must be

- [The original unpublished work of the student
- [Not currently submitted elsewhere or received a cash prize in any other contest
- [Titled except for haiku. Do not use the category name as the title of the entry
- [Typed, photocopied, or computer generated on 8 1/2 X 11 plain white paper. We will accept submissions that are *clearly hand-written or printed*.
- [*Single spaced* one side of the page

2. LINE WIDTH: 56 characters (including punctuation and spaces)

3. LINE LIMIT: 32 lines or less

4. Students may enter only *ONE* poem

HOW TO SUBMIT POEMS

1. Send two (2) clear copies of each poem.

B On **BOTH** copies, place category name & number in upper *left* corner.

B On 2nd copy **ONLY**, in the upper *right* corner, place poet's **NAME & ADDRESS, AGE, GRADE, SCHOOL NAME and ADDRESS and TEACHER NAME**. List email if available. (This is to permit us to contact/notify teachers and students of contest results.)

2. Mail all entries to **Carol Schwope**
Student Contest Chair
PO Box 24
South Shore KY 41175
Phone #: 740.778.3214
cjschwope@earthlink.net

Email:

3. **Entries will not be returned.**

4. Be sure KSPS guidelines have been followed in order to ensure eligibility.

The 2007 Kentucky State Poetry Society Student Poetry Contest is open to all Students.

Contest Deadline: March 1, 2007

Winners will be announced in April.

First, Second and Third Place winners will be published in the Student issue of *PEGASUS*, the official journal of KSPS.

Cluster Leader List

It's worth repeating. We are still working diligently to make certain we have the correct information in our cluster leader database. Please let us know if you are no longer a cluster leader and wish to be removed from the list. Likewise, please let us know the name of the new cluster leader.